

# The Hour



*"keeps up with Hitler to the minute"*

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## AND OTHER ITEMS

A news-letter issued by the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda, Inc.

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## STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NAZI PARTY AND THE GERMAN ARMY

Despite Dismissals, Hitler Neither Controls Nor  
Trusts the Reichswehr Entirely

In determining to what degree Hitler's foreign policy, with its threats of war, is based on bluff, three factors are all-important: first, the state of efficiency and preparedness in the German army; second, the economic position and the question of reserves of raw materials; and finally, the political situation. The following information, gathered by The Hour, deals with the political situation as it affects the army. The data is derived from the testimony of two independent and reliable sources close to the Reichswehr, which dovetail perfectly with each other. The identities of the sources, naturally enough, cannot be divulged. In brief outline the facts are these:

At the time of the Munich crisis the German army took an uncompromising position that it was not ready to fight. This position was so definite that the army was not even completely mobilized. Hitler and Ribbentrop had the definite understanding that they would not let it come to actual war but that they would gain the victory by the threat of war up to the last minute. The army leaders advised against the risk.

After Hitler's triumph at Munich, General Reichenau, who is the only Nazi political general, wrote a pamphlet denouncing the army and its opposition to the Fuehrer's successful policies, entitled "Die Armee hat versagt, der Fuehrer hat gesiegt" (The army failed, but the Leader won). This pamphlet was used by the Nazi

party, led by Himmler, to try to force the appointment of Reichenau as commander-in-chief and Himmler as minister of war. (There is at present no minister of war as such a post would symbolize political control of the army, which the army opposes.)

The army was strong enough to defeat this maneuver. Reichenau is discredited, isolated and ostracized in army circles. Generals Brauchitsch and Keitel, the present commanders, are not Nazi generals but purely non-political army men. The ousting of Blomberg, the Reichswehr's commander, was not a victory for the party but a victory for the army, although Hitler had to dismiss von Fritsch at the same time in order to satisfy the party.

Not only has the Nazi party failed utterly to "purge" the German high command, but the Nazis have apparently failed in their campaign to get control of the lower ranks of officers. This conflict has made the army so bitter that there is a feud between the army and the party based on the caste system, and all young officers, who owe their commissions to party connections or who are enthusiastic members of the party, are discriminated against and even ostracized by their fellow officers.

However, it should be noted that, although the army has succeeded in maintaining its complete independence of the party in its own domain, it has less influence in deciding Nazi policies than before, as illustrated by Hitler's policy in going ahead against the general staff's opinion with regard to Austria, before Munich, and again this spring. Disgust with the flouting of their advice led some of the generals even to advocate the appointment of Himmler as minister of war so that the responsibility for military adventures which they disapproved could be placed openly on the shoulders of the party where it belonged. However, the majority of the generals rejected this counsel of despair, and the army retains its isolation and independence. Moreover, Himmler is building up the SS corps as a sort of rival to the army as far as maintaining internal order is concerned.

The November pogroms had a tremendous reaction among army officers, as among conservative Germans generally, who until then had tolerated the Nazi regime. They awoke to the realization that the government was at least in part dominated by criminal elements. What made the reign of terror the most inexcusable was that it seemed that the Nazis deliberately concentrated on the most decent and respected Jews in order to stress the fact that to be a member of the Jewish race alone was the great crime.

The main conclusion of the foregoing seems to be this: The fact that Hitler and the party do not control or really trust the army vastly reduces the danger of war, for, not only are the chances of victory poor, but the danger to the party from army control during the war is very real and Hitler knows it.

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## DEATHERAGE DID NOT TELL ALL ABOUT HIS LINK WITH NAZI REICH

Represented U. S. Fascists at Conference in Erfurt, Germany

George Deatherage, chief of the Knights of the White Camellia, did not tell all when, on May 23 and 24, he appeared in Washington before the House committee on un-American activities. He told of his link with an international "anti-Communist" organization in Fascist Italy, and he said that the Nazis in the German embassy in Washington had "rebuffed" him when he had wanted to establish closer connections with them. Actually, however, Deatherage's relations with Nazi Germany are close -- far closer even than his relations with Italy. A statement to this effect was released on May 25 to the U. S. press by the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda.

The statement pointed out that the German Ministry of Propaganda and Public Enlightenment, recognizing the part that Mr. Deatherage plays in spreading Nazi doctrines in America, invited him to attend the World-Service conference, held last summer in Erfurt, Germany. A Nazi propaganda news-sheet, World-Service is published in Erfurt bi-monthly on the first and the fifteenth, in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, Danish, Hungarian, Polish, Russian and German. Several hundred pro-Nazi weeklies in the United States use it, among them Father Charles E. Coughlin's Social Justice and William Dudley Pelley's Liberation.

Nazi propagandists from all over the world attended the World-Service conference, and Mr. Deatherage was the American delegate. He addressed the meeting in English. His topic was: "Will America be the Jews' Waterloo?"

Deatherage is also linked with Nazi organizations in other countries of Europe, and throughout Canada, the United States, and Central and South America. In fact, the little town of St. Albans, deep in the hills of West Virginia, from which Deatherage operates, has become an international clearing house for Nazi propaganda in the United States. As such it is recognized and actively aided by the Nazi Reich and its leaders.

Mr. Deatherage not merely dreams of The Day when he and his followers will overthrow the government of the United States and put Major General Van Horn Moseley or somebody like him in the White House as "the American Hitler." He acts. He carries on Nazi propaganda not through his Knights of the White Camellia, but through another group of his own creation, the American Nationalist Confederation. He calls the American Nationalist Confederation "the official Fascist party." Its purpose is frankly to weld all the hundreds of pro-Nazi organizations in this country into one organization that will eventually attempt to seize power.

The weekly news-bulletin of the American Nationalist Confederation publishes such editorials as "Fascism Is America's Only Solution," in which Mr. Deatherage urges the abolition of "parliamentarianism as being

corrupt, antiquated, and being controlled entirely by international bankers through party conventions." On the masthead of the news-bulletin is emblazoned the Nazi swastika.

The American Nationalist Confederation distributes not only its own publications, but the propaganda of many another Nazi group not only in the United States but in Europe as well. One batch of material received from the American Nationalist Confederation recently by the Institute for Propaganda Analysis in New York included eight issues of World-Service, both in English and German; two speeches by Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels, translated into English; one dozen Jew-baiting stickers; and one dozen leaflets from the Fichte Association in Hamburg, Germany. Also included were the publications of the Canadian Union of Fascists; the British Union of Fascists, the Russian National Revolution Party, the Japanese Government, and Svea Rike (Swedish).

Along with foreign propaganda, Mr. Deatherage also distributes the propaganda of such native organizations as the Defenders of the Faith, the Silvershirts, the German-American Bund, the Militant Christian Patriots, and, of course, the Ku Klux Klan. He recently has been making similar arrangements with pro-Nazi organizations in Central and South America--and especially the Mexican Gold Shirts--to distribute their propaganda, too. His progress in this attempt has occasionally been reported in the news-bulletin of the American Nationalist Confederation, which recently printed an editorial called "A Fascist Union for the Americas."

The editorial called on all pro-Nazi organizations in the Western Hemisphere to unite, to pool their efforts in the drive to implant Nazi doctrines here.

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#### ITALIANS PERSIST IN ANTI-GERMAN FEELING CONTRARY TO THE ALLIANCE

From a diplomat, who has lived in Rome for years and knows Crown Prince Humbert and practically everyone else of importance, The Hour is in receipt of information confirming recent reports of anti-German feeling in Italy. Countess Ciano, Mussolini's daughter, is said to be the most influential Italian in Italy next to Il Duce himself, and the German alliance is wholly the work of Mussolini and his family. The Gestapo is definitely established in Italy with Mussolini's consent in order to check any possible disloyalty to the Axis inside the Fascist party and especially in army, clerical and royalist circles, which are largely hostile to the Axis war policy. Mussolini is humorously dubbed by Germans "der Gauleiter von Welschland" (Welschland is an old German name for Italy; "Gauleiter" means "district leader"). A distinguished Italian Jewish family, who fell under the new anti-Jewish laws, were feted by the leaders of society to show complete disapproval of the Jewish persecution, and there were popular demonstrations of sympathy for the Jews at funerals and other occasions.

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## KUHN AND BUND FACE FEDERAL PROSECUTION

The Hour is reliably informed that the charge of stealing \$14,548.59 is not the only one that worries Fritz Julius Kuhn, the stocky fuhrer of the German-American Bund, now under arrest in New York.

He and his Bund face another and even more serious problem. This time the G-men are on their trail.

The Bund's trouble with the Federal authorities is caused by its continual violation of its second-class mailing franchise. This franchise prohibits the transportation of newspapers to zones other than those in which they are printed when such transportation is done to avoid payment of mailing fees. For the past few years, the Bund has been publishing its official organ, the Weekruf und Beobachter, in four editions. All four editions are published in Philadelphia, but each is marked individually for Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. Each has a separate masthead carrying the name of the city for which it is intended despite the fact that all are printed in Germantown, just outside of Philadelphia.

Last year, through similar dishonesties of various publications, the Federal government lost more than forty million dollars on second-class mailing franchises. The government is not too eager to be punished by the Bund to the extent of thousands of dollars a year as has been the Nazis' practice up to now.

The Bund beats the law by shipping its papers to the part of the country, for which they are destined, by truck. But the government has already taken the first steps to halt what practically amounts to a Federal subsidy of Hitler's American agents: it set F.B.I. men and post-office inspectors to work in a broad investigation of the Bund's practice.

Such is the latest headache of the German-American Bund, already deluged with a shower of law-suits and the arrest of Fritz Kuhn for forgery and theft, as well as of potential indictments of his lieutenants by the officials of New York.

If the question occurs as to what Kuhn might have done with the monies with the theft of which he is charged, a partial answer may be found in his pending divorce and other marital difficulties. The big blonde, with whom he has been seeing the sights of New York while his wife and children stayed home, may be able to answer some of the official queries.

That charges of stealing and other transgressions are not exactly a new element in the little fuhrer's life may be seen from the record, now on file in U. S. Attorney John T. Cahill's office, of Herr Kuhn's having served a prison term in Germany in 1921 for a theft. This record may be used by the Federal government to deprive the Bund's leader of his American citizenship on the grounds that he concealed his criminal past at the time he became a naturalized citizen in 1934.

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## NEW ATTEMPT OF NAZIS TO CAPTURE DETROIT'S WORKERS

According to reliable information reaching The Hour from Germany, the latest policy of Nazi propagandists is to increase greatly their activities among industrial workers in foreign countries. The United States is becoming the major field of Nazi operations, and American industrial unions are to be penetrated at any cost and by whatever means.

Detroit is singled out by Goebbels and his poison-pen brigades as a place for their most conspicuous effort in this direction. The attempt to propagandize and organize Detroit's automobile workers along Nazi lines follows closely upon the recent success of Nazi trade organizations in crowding American-made cars out of Latin America with German-made cars (The Hour, April 30). This Nazi blow to Detroit's payrolls is counted on by the Nazis and their fascist American allies to create among Detroit's workers unemployment and dissatisfaction, which are then to be exploited through unscrupulous propaganda.

During the past few days people of Detroit have returned from work to find on their doorsteps printed leaflets and throwaways addressed to "American Born Gentiles" and signed "Wayne Chapter No. 1, Industrial Legion of America, an Organization of Americans, by Americans and for Americans." The literature, based as it is upon a claim of guaranteeing "real Americans' seniority" on jobs and attacking the foreign-born and the Jews, is an exact counterpart of the attacks by Coughlin and by reactionaries in Congress as well as of the present line of Nazi-like groups in this country. There is a hint of forthcoming violence in one of the leaflets stating that "riots ... can happen here."

An attempt to influence local elections along pro-Nazi patterns was made recently by an organization naming itself "Better Government Association." A leaflet distributed by this outfit read: "It is the solemn duty of every citizen to vote. To vote intelligently it is necessary to be well informed. The following slate recommends no candidate. The only object is to give the voter the information contained herein." But the information, given in the leaflet, is about each candidate's race or religion and thus smacks openly of Berlin inspiration.

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## NAZIS SPREAD THEIR HATRED ALSO IN BRAILLE

The Nazis are publishing books in Braille preaching most virulent race hatred for the benefit of blind persons. This information was communicated to The Hour by Mr. Erwin Kraft, secretary of the American "Kulturkampf" Association (anti-Nazi) of New York, after reading Helen Keller's letter on the plight of the deaf and blind in Germany (The Hour, May 15). One of such books in Braille, a volume by the notorious Streicher of Nuremberg, is in the possession of Mr. Kraft in his New York office.

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## PAN AMERICAN NEWS

(Gathered by the Council for Pan American Democracy)

### Bolivian Workers in American-owned Mines are Under Thumb of Nazi Agents

On the heels of the recent Bolivian putsch, which placed at the head of the government Senor German Busch, a dictator of German origin, comes the information that Nazi agents have been spreading their propaganda among Bolivian workers. Even in the Aguilar mines, owned by North American capital, where between 400 and 500 tons of lead and zinc are produced daily, the entire technical staff is German. Of these Germans, at least two are notorious Nazi propagandists. The mines are situated in the Argentine state of Jujuy, just across the Bolivian border, and 80 per cent of the workers are Bolivian.

The two Nazi propagandists are Herr Kirimbach, just returned from Germany, and Herr Jaesker, well known in the Argentine for previous Nazi activities in the Patagonian oil fields. At a celebration of an Argentine national holiday sometime ago in Jujuy, the Nazis refused to raise the Argentine flag but instead, according to a report, trampled it.

### Increase of Axis Trade in Honduras Halted

The anti-democratic Axis won trade victories in Honduras, but part of the triumph has recently been lost. Figures from the latest official reports in Honduras show a marked increase in imports into that Central American country from Germany, Italy and Japan since 1932. While imports into Honduras from the United States fell off 15.3% from 1932 to 1937, imports from the Axis countries increased 17.5% in the same period. The United States still sold over fifty per cent of the total amount of goods imported by Honduras. It is significant that during the years when fascism as an ideology demonstrated such rapid growth, the products of the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis were pushed into Honduras until they rose from the rather insignificant seven per cent in 1932 to almost twenty-five per cent of the total imports in 1937. But the very next year part of this victory was lost: unpublished figures of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reveal that the Axis' share in Honduran imports fell off slightly to 20.2% in the fiscal year 1938, while United States exports to Honduras rose during 1938 to 62% of total Honduran imports.

### Mysterious Deaths in the Wake of the Patagonian Plot

Two mysterious deaths have followed in the wake of the uncovering of the secret German document which led to the investigation by the Argentine police of the Nazi plot to annex Patagonia. Gustav Lahusen, one of the three brothers who were known as the "Kings of Patagonia" because of their monopoly over the Patagonian wool trade, was reported to have died in Germany within a few days after the investigation began.



Eight days later his uncle, Christian Lahusen, also a heavy investor in the Lahusen Company Ltd., which dominated Patagonia, died of an unreported cause in the Argentine.

Was it, the Argentines are asking, that the Lahusens knew too much? Gustav Lahusen had been accused, and had never denied the charge, of being the secret adviser to the Argentine branch of the Nazi party. In the secret document disclosing the Nazi plot, his company was mentioned as one of the "already established links" between the Nazis and Patagonia. A cablegram received by members of the anti-Hitler Black Front in the Argentine links the Gestapo with Gustav Lahusen's death. According to Noticias Graficas, the Buenos Aires newspaper, the cable states: "Heydrich amadeute Mord Gustav Lahusen 3 April," that is: "Heydrich ordered the death of Gustav Lahusen on April 3." Heydrich, the report points out, is second in command of the Gestapo in Berlin.

The equally mysterious death of Christian Lahusen, powerful uncle of Gustav, coming so closely after the disclosure of the Nazi plot and the death of Gustav in Germany, raises the question even more urgently: The Lahusens obviously knew much of the Nazis' work in Argentine Patagonia; did the investigation bring their knowledge too near the surface to suit Nazi schemes?

### Nazis Plan "Incidents" Between Argentina and Chile

A bold attempt is being made by Nazis in Argentina and in Chile to stir up national antagonisms between the two countries in order to divert the peoples' and the governments' attention from Nazi designs upon a "German-colonial" Patagonia.

Most recent reports received here describe a plan in which Argentine and Chilean Nazis are joining forces in southern Argentina, near the Chilean border, in preparation for making an armed attack from Argentina upon Chile. It is to appear that the attack is an attempt of the Argentines to annex Chilean territory. The purpose of the attack is to make antipathy so strong between Argentina and Chile that neither country will be willing to work with the other in defending Patagonia against the Nazis. The ground is being dressed for this attack by distribution of literature in both countries by Nazi groups. Specimens of this literature have been received in New York. One is a poster put out by the Chilean Nazis stating that Patagonia really belongs to Chile, rather than to Argentina, and proclaiming that "the liberating phalanx will free Chilean Patagonia from the Argentine yoke."

In the Argentine, this Nazi-inspired poster was reproduced in Combate, organ of a fascist group known as the Legion Civica Argentina, with reference to "imperialist Chile." It is the old Nazi game of creating incidents at which to snipe. Meanwhile, in the Argentine, such fascist newspapers as Crisol and La Frontera continue to try to distract attention from Nazi activities by cruder means: they are now charging that the real danger to Patagonia is that of "Jewish and Yankee" penetration.

